

**Annex 6: Action Fiche for the 2011-2012 Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Regional
Action Programme - Global Allocation**

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title	Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Global Allocation for 2011-2012 (CRIS number 23020)		
Total cost	EU contribution: EUR 17 million		
Aid method/ Management mode	Project approach – centralised		
DAC code	43010	Sector	Multi-sector

2. RATIONALE

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Global Allocation for 2011-2012 is a flexible “facility” giving the European Commission the possibility to decide to finance small-scale measures that are in keeping with the objectives of the Southern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy and its operational and policy priorities.

Based on the ENPI Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006), in particular Article 16 on “Support measures”, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Global Allocation for 2011-2012 provides funding which allows to implement the ENPI Regulation and achieve its objectives, e.g. supporting activities and studies relating to the country or multi-country programmes, organisation of ENPI South meetings, activities in the fields of culture and information or *ad hoc* operations.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The objective of this Global Allocation is to ensure a rapid commitment decision on action and projects, while enabling the European Commission to act with flexibility by means of an instrument which is capable of adapting itself to evolving circumstances and/or dealing with unforeseen situations.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The Global Allocation will be used as a framework for financing activities in the following fields:

Support for project cycle management

This component includes activities linked to:

- identification and formulation of bilateral and regional projects which may result in funding from ENPI South (e.g. sectoral studies, country or region studies, studies on cross-cutting issues or in specialised areas, preparatory activities, etc.);

- small projects and other small-scale activities to back up major projects during implementation (programmes carried out under the country or multi-country programmes);
- audit and evaluation/impact assessment of projects for which financing of such activities could not be foreseen due to the N+1 rule or is no longer available.

The indicative budget for this component is **EUR 6 million** to be allocated by means of framework contracts. In the very few cases where the existing framework contracts could not be used (e.g. budget over the EUR 0.2 million threshold, experts unavailable for various lots, etc.), other procedures laid down in the Financial Regulation (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002) will be followed.

(1) **Cultural and information activities**

This component covers activities of the relevant EU Delegations in the Mediterranean countries and territories in the following areas:

- culture: support to local or regional cultural activities in the field of audiovisual and multimedia, arts, cultural festivals (cinema, dance, theatre, etc.), dialogue between cultures, etc.;
- information: publications and other information and awareness-raising activities about the Euro-Mediterranean co-operation and partnership which are designed and implemented in coherence with and to complement the regional information and communication programme, in order to enhance the visibility of Commission's activities in each relevant southern Mediterranean country.

This component will have an indicative budget of **EUR 3.5 million**, to be split among EU Delegations, based on their annual programme of activities. These activities will be implemented by means of grant and service contracts. All grant contracts will be awarded following calls for proposals launched locally by EU Delegations. The required procedures for service contracts will be applied in accordance with the Financial Regulation.

(2) **Organisation of meetings**

This component covers different kinds of meetings organised by the Commission in the framework of the ENPI South , including ministerial conferences conducted in co-operation with the EU Presidency and thematic working groups, civil fora, sectoral preparatory meetings, etc.

The indicative budget for this component is **EUR 3 million**. The technical preparations for and logistical organisation of the meetings will come under framework contracts or other procedures laid down in the Financial Regulation.

(3) **Ad hoc operations**

This component will be used to finance operations in specific cases which fall outside the scope of the standard country or multi-country programmes, such as the EU's financial contribution to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean and the information and training seminars for Euro Mediterranean diplomats.

Support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean has been established on a permanent basis to play a key role in the institutional architecture of the Union for the Mediterranean, mainly by taking charge of identifying measures to follow up and promote new projects, but also by seeking funding and partners to implement projects.

It was agreed at EU political level that the Commission will co-finance (up to a maximum of 50%, declining over time) the Secretariat of the Union on a yearly basis. For 2011, Commission has signed with the Secretariat an operating grant agreement which amounts to EUR 3,127,498. This co-financing strictly follows the provisions of the Financial Regulation. The other sources of funding will have to come from the Euro-Mediterranean partners. Spain contributes in-kind by providing premises for the Secretariat in Barcelona. Other EU and non-EU partner countries ensure their share of the co-financing via the secondment to the Secretariat of national civil experts and experts. Additional sources of funding should come from EU and non-EU partner countries but are not known to date.

The information and training seminars for Euro-Mediterranean diplomats

In the course of the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, and in particular the political and security dialogue, the necessity for introducing partnership measures among EU Member States and their Mediterranean Partners has continually been emphasized.

It is proposed to continue to finance in 2011 this initiative which started back in 2001. It consists in a series of training sessions to familiarize diplomats coming from Foreign Ministries' departments with the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership process and the Union for the Mediterranean. Training sessions mainly focus on the EU institutional setting and decision-making patterns, the question of how to deal with the EU in practical terms, and selected aspects of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and its implementation.

The underlying objective of these information and training sessions is to improve the flow of information, and the exchange of perspectives and the promotion of dialogue among diplomats from Euro-Mediterranean partners. These sessions will also serve as valuable networking functions, as officials attending the meetings are all directly involved in the current implementation of the Euro Mediterranean partnership.

The indicative budget for the ad-hoc operations is **EUR 4.5 million**. The information and training seminars for Euro Mediterranean diplomats will be financed via a service contract. Financial support from the EU budget to the Secretariat will be financed via an operating grant agreement.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Implementation method

Centralised management.

4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

1) Contracts

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

Participation in the award of contracts for the present action shall be open to all natural and legal persons covered by the ENPI Regulation. Further extensions of this participation to other natural or legal persons by the concerned authorising officer shall be subject to the conditions provided for in Article 21(7) of the ENPI regulation.

2) Specific rules for grants

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations and which are in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions. The maximum rate of co-financing for grants is 80%. Full financing is possible only in the cases provided for in Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation where financing in full is essential in order to carry out the action in question.

4.3. Indicative budget and calendar

Contracts can be financed under this part of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Global Allocation as soon as the relevant Commission Decision is adopted and until 31 December 2012 in accordance with the “n+1” rule, provided the funds available under the previous Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Global Allocation have been fully used.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

Certification of expenditure will have to be submitted as part of the contracts implementing this decision. Evaluations of the results achieved by some of the projects financed under this Decision may be conducted by external experts entrusted by the Commission, along with external audits on the initiative of the Commission, if necessary. These evaluations and audits will be funded from other sources because the “n+1” rule applies after the contracting-out period for this Decision.